

March 23, 1973

CLERK: Legislative Bill 463, introduced by Senator Whitney of the 44th district (read). There are no committee amendments or other amendments pending.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature. This is a bill that actually could be termed a standby legislation. What it would do would be to allow the State Engineer Director to designate that the weight limitations that are in effect on the 10,000 miles of State and Federal highways in Nebraska would also be the maximum limitations allowable on the Interstate and defense highway systems; provided, the State Engineer Director first would determine that Nebraska would not lose any Federal Highway User revenues if they exceeded the limitations that are now in effect on the Interstate and defense highway system as imposed by Congress. This bill does have the support of the Highway Department and has been unanimously reported out by the Public Works Committee members after their consideration of this bill.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion of the bill. Does the Chair understand, there were no committee amendments? Any further discussion of the bill? Question is shall L.B. 463 be advanced from general file to E&R initial. All those in favor vote aye. All those opposed vote no.

SPEAKER: Clerk will record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, no nays, 24 not voting.

SPEAKER: Bill is advanced. That brings up L.B. 463. Senator Whitney. Any amendments, Mr. Clerk? Excuse me, 114--that's--

CLERK: Legislative Bill 114, introduced by Senator Carpenter, Chairman of the Executive Board. (bill read). There are lengthy amendments, Mr. President, by Senator Burbach's Revenue Committee.

SPEAKER: Senator Burbach. Would the Senator care to explain the amendments in lieu of reading?

SENATOR BURBACH: I, I, I'll explain the amendments rather than to have you read them again. As L.B. 114 was originally drafted, it was a revisory bill sponsored by the Executive Board to make internal reference corrections. This is the outcome of a bill, I believe it was 1084 of the last session of the Legislature which would provide for those people of certain incomes to receive 25% the first year and 50% off of their property tax of their homesteads. Now this is the bill we're actually talking about and it has to do with L.B. 1084 of the 72 session. At the hearing the Department of Revenue proposed various changes which, in the opinion of the Department of Revenue, would have made administrative procedures easier in dealing with the homestead exemption. The Department of Revenue proposed the following amendments which were adopted by the committee. First the amount of the property tax exemption of low income individuals over 65 years of age be changed to 25% for the first \$15,000 of actual value in the first year and 50% of the first \$15,000 of actual value in the following year. Now as the bill was originally drafted, which was discussed and passed by this body a year ago, granted a maximum exemption of \$125 and \$250 in the second year. Technically, this would not be correct. The Department of Revenue was of the opinion that a specific exemption of a percentage of the actual value would be more appropriate to correspond with the constitutional amendment. That constitutional amendment which, which allowed homestead exemption, the fiscal impact will be not identical but as close to the same as could possibly be arrived at because of the mill levy